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## Obama awards Medal of Honor to US Army captain



President Barack Obama adjusts the Medal of Honor after bestowing the nation's highest military honor, to retired Army captain Florent Groberg, left, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015. The former Army captain received the medal after he tackled a suicide bomber while serving in Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

**KEVIN FREKING**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A French-born U.S. Army captain who shoved a suicide bomber to the ground and away from his security detail became the nation's newest Medal of Honor recipient Thursday as President Barack Obama credited his actions with preventing a greater catastrophe from occurring. Florent Groberg, 32, is the 10th living service member awarded the nation's highest honor for battlefield bravery in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Four people were killed in the attack, and several others were wounded. As families of the victims and some of his former Army colleagues watched, Obama draped the medal around Groberg's neck at a White House ceremony. Groberg fought to keep his emotions in check as he faced the crowd and cameras. Afterward, he dedicated the medal to those killed and their families, saying they were the true heroes.

"I am blessed and just grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve my country," Groberg said. Obama recounted the details of the August 2012 attack, which left Groberg badly wounded and requiring nearly three years of recovery at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Groberg was helping to lead a military escort in Afghanistan's Kunar Province when his unit approached a bridge. As two motorcyclists caused a diversion, a man dressed in dark clothing spun toward him some 10 feet away. Groberg grabbed the bomber by the vest and kept pushing him backward, with help from fellow soldier, Sgt. Andrew Mahoney. The attacker fell to ground and the bomb detonated. That explosion also caused a second, unseen bomb to detonate before it could be placed closer to the unit.

"Had both bombs gone off as planned, who knows how many could have

been killed," Obama said. Groberg suffered significant nerve damage and about half the calf muscle in his left leg was blown off. He needed 33 surgeries to save his leg.

The Medal of Honor ceremony was somber, but Obama also recounted how Groberg first came to consciousness after the bombing. He thought he was in Germany and that the lead singer from the

heavy metal band Korn was at his bedside and talking to him, Obama said.

"Flo thought, 'What's going on? Am I hallucinating?'" Obama said. "But he wasn't. It was all real. And so, today, Flo, I want to assure you you are not hallucinating. You are actually in the White House. Those cameras are on. I am not the lead singer from Korn," Obama joked.

Born in Poissy, France, Gro-

berg became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2001, the same year he graduated from high school in Maryland. He also competed in track and cross country at the University of Maryland before entering the Army in 2008. Obama said that what helped make Groberg a great runner during his student days at the University of Maryland, "training, guts, teamwork," also made him a great soldier. □

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## Black administrator named Missouri System's interim head

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Associated Press  
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Interim University of Missouri System President Michael Middleton speaks at his introductory press conference in University Hall Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia, Mo. Middleton was the first black student admitted to the MU School of Law, helped co-found the Legion of Black Collegians and was an MU Professor. (Justin L. Stewart/via AP)

graduates was appointed Thursday to lead the four-campus system through a tumultuous period of racial unrest, drawing praise from students who said he's well-equipped to confront the problems they felt his predecessor largely ignored.

Michael Middleton, 68, has spent 30 years at the university — as an undergraduate, law student, faculty member and finally, administrator. At a news conference announcing his appointment as the university system's interim president, he vowed to take on the racial problems that

inspired the protests that helped force Monday's abrupt resignation of President Tim Wolfe and another top administrator.

Middleton takes over as black student groups, calling for change over the administration's handling of racial issues, were given a boost last weekend when 30 black football players vowed not to take part in team activities until Wolfe was gone.

Middleton said the university "has faced its share of troubling incidents and we recognize that we must move forward as a community." □

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## Aging mobster acquitted in 1978 heist retold in 'Goodfellas'



Vincent Asaro leaves Brooklyn federal court Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, in New York. Asaro was acquitted Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, of charges he helped plan a legendary 1978 Lufthansa heist retold in the hit film "Goodfellas."

(AP Photo/Bryan R. Smith)

**TOM HAYS**  
**MICHAEL BALSAMO**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — An aging mobster who stayed mostly in the shadows for decades by adhering to the Mafia's strict code of silence was acquitted Thursday of charges he helped plan a legendary 1978 Lufthansa heist retold in the hit film "Goodfellas."

A federal jury reached the surprising verdict at a Brooklyn racketeering trial where it heard testimony that portrayed 80-year-old Vincent Asaro as a throwback to an era when New York's five organized crime families comprised a secret society that committed brazen crimes and settled scores with bloodshed.

Asaro jumped up, pumped his fist and clapped after the verdict. When he walked out of the courthouse, he threw his hands up in the air and hollered: "Free!"

"I was shocked, I was really shocked," Asaro said

outside. "I've got two years in, and I'm dying to get home."

He said he would be headed home to have a good meal with his family.

"Right now I've been eating bologna sandwiches," he said.

It was a stunning defeat for the federal government in a courthouse where prosecutors over the years have won convictions of major mob figures like Gambino family head John Gotti and Genovese crime boss Vincent "chin" Gigante. The U.S. attorney's office declined to comment after the verdict.

Asaro, whose father and grandfather were members of the secretive Bonanno crime family, "was born into that life and he fully embraced it," Assistant U.S. Attorney Alicyn Cooley said in closing arguments. His devotion to the Bonannos "was as permanent as the 'death before dishonor' tattoo on his arm," she added.

Asaro said he believed jurors found him not guilty because the prosecution's case was "overkill."

"She must've put 30 agents on the stand, all lies," he said of the prosecutor.

The defense accused prosecutors of relying on shady paid cooperators, including Asaro's cousin Gaspare Valenti. They argued that the witnesses had incentive to frame Asaro to escape lengthy prison terms of their own.

At trial, prosecutors described how Asaro rose through the ranks and developed an "unbreakable bond" with the more notorious James "Jimmy the Gent" Burke, the late Lucchese crime family associate who orchestrated the holdup at the Lufthansa cargo terminal at Kennedy Airport. Taking the witness stand last month, Valenti testified that Asaro and Burke killed a suspected informant with a dog chain in 1969 before ordering Valenti to help bury the body.

Valenti also testified that Asaro drafted him for the Lufthansa heist, telling him, "Jimmy Burke has a big score at the airport coming up, and you're invited to go."

When he learned about the mountain of \$100 bills and jewels taken from a Lufthansa vault, Asaro was "very happy, really euphoric," Valenti testified. "We thought there was going to be \$2 million in cash and there was \$6 million."

In the aftermath, Asaro survived a bloodbath portrayed in "Goodfellas," with Robert De Niro's character going ballistic over fellow mobsters' purchases of flashy cars and furs and, fearing they would attract law enforcement attention, having them whacked. Prosecutors claimed he collected at least \$500,000 from the score but had a gambling problem and squandered it away at the racetrack. □

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## Black students around US complain of casual, everyday racism



Michigan students stand in solidarity Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, with University of Missouri protesters and students, in Ann Arbor, Mich. A march and rally offered a show of support to University of Missouri students whose protests led two top administrators to resign.

(Dominic Valente/The Ann Arbor News via AP)

**COLLIN BINKLEY**  
**ERRIN WHACK**  
**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — Thousands of students across the U.S. took part in demonstrations

at university campuses Thursday to show solidarity with protesters at the University of Missouri, and to shine a light on what they say are racial problems at

their own schools. Students at some schools said they were emboldened to take a harder stance against racism by the protests that topped the

Missouri president, who was criticized for his handling of racial complaints. Some of the Missouri students said they were inspired by the protests in nearby Ferguson, where the police killing of an 18-year-old black man helped give rise to the nationwide "black lives matter" movement.

From Boston College to campuses at the University of California, dozens of schools saw walkouts and rallies. While the Missouri protests were triggered in large part by complaints about slurs and other overt racism on campus, some students at Thursday's rallies said it's a subtler brand of prejudice that motivated them to take a stand.

Many said they face daily instances of casual racism and insensitivity. There's even a word on campuses these days for subtle slights against minorities: microaggression.

"It's more the daily microaggressions than the large

situations," said Akosua Opokua-Achampong, a student at Boston College. "Those also hurt."

Sheryce Holloway said she is tired of white people at Virginia Commonwealth University asking if they can touch her hair or if she knows the latest dance move.

At Chicago's Loyola University, student Dominick Hall said groups of white guys stop talking when he walks by, and sometimes people grip their bags a little tighter.

Katiana Roc said she will never forget the day two years ago when she sat down in class at West Virginia University and a white student a few seats away collected his things and moved across the room.

"He looked uncomfortable. I'm pretty sure he moved because of the color of my skin. It didn't hurt my feelings," said Roc. "What disappointed me was his ignorance." □



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## US Financial Front:

# Applications for US jobless aid stay near historic lows

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of people seeking unemployment aid was unchanged last week, a sign that most businesses are reluctant to cut jobs. The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications for jobless benefits remained at a seasonally adjusted 276,000, the same as the previous week. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose 5,000 to 267,750.

Applications are a proxy for layoffs. Just three weeks ago, the average dropped to its lowest level since December 1973. That suggests employers are confident the economy will continue to expand and see little reason to let go of their staffs.

After stumbling in the July-September quarter under the weight of slowing overseas growth and a strong dollar, the U.S. economy is forecast to rebound in the final three months of this year. Americans are still spending on autos,

electronics, and restaurant meals at a healthy rate, supporting a pickup in hiring last month.

Hiring is typically healthy when applications are so low. Employers added 271,000 jobs in October, the government said last week, the largest monthly gain this year. The unemployment rate ticked down to 5 percent from 5.1 percent, a fresh seven-year low.

There have also been signs that average pay is finally picking up after roughly six years of sluggish growth. Average hourly wages rose 2.5 percent in October from a year earlier, the largest annual gain since 2009.

Still, that remains below the 3.5 percent pace that is typical in a healthy economy. October's job gain came after two months of tepid hiring in August and September. Still, employers have added an average of 206,000 jobs a month this year. That's enough to lower the unemployment rate over time. □



Students attend The Foot in the Door Career Fair at the University of Illinois in Springfield, Ill. The Labor Department said Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, that weekly applications for jobless benefits remained at a seasonally adjusted 276,000, the same as the previous week. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose 5,000 to 267,750. (AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

## US government records \$136.5B October budget deficit: Officials

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. government started its new budget year with a deficit in October, although the imbalance was made worse by a calendar quirk. The October deficit totaled \$136.5 billion, up 12.2 percent from October 2014, the Treasury Department reported Thursday. In both years, Nov. 1 fell on a weekend, which required the government to mail out November benefit checks in October. That shifted \$49 billion in pay-

ments into October, up from last year's \$41 billion payment shift.

For the 2015 budget year that ended Sept. 30, the annual deficit fell to \$438.9 billion, its lowest level in eight years, spurred by gains in tax revenue that outpaced greater government spending.

The Congressional Budget Office in August forecast that the 2016 deficit will drop to \$414 billion and edge up slightly to \$416 billion in 2017, which will be the next president's first year in office. □

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## Twin suicide blasts in Beirut's Shiite suburb kill 43

**BASSEM MROUE**  
**Associated Press**

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Twin suicide bombings struck a southern Beirut suburb that's a stronghold of the militant Shiite Hezbollah group on Thursday evening, killing at least 43 people and wounding scores more in one of the deadliest attacks in recent years in Lebanon.

The attack was quickly claimed by the extremists Islamic State group, which is fighting in neighboring Syria and Iraq but has not had a recognized affiliate in Lebanon, though the tiny Mediterranean country has seen deadly spillovers from the civil war next door.

The explosions hit minutes apart during rush hour in an area of southern Bei-

rut called Burj al-Barajneh, a Hezbollah stronghold. The Shiite group has been fighting in Syria along with Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces. The area has been hit in the past and Sunni militant groups have threatened to carry out more attacks there.

It was not immediately clear how many attackers were involved. According to a Lebanese security official, the first suicide attacker detonated his explosives' vest outside a Shiite mosque, while the second blew himself up inside a nearby bakery.

An apparent third attacker was found dead, his legs blown off while he still wore an intact explosives' belt, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity



**Lebanese soldiers arrest a suspected attacker near the scene of a twin suicide attack in Burj al-Barajneh, southern Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015 that struck a Shiite suburb killed and wounded dozens, according to a Lebanese official.**

(AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)



in line with regulations. The official speculated that the third man may have been killed from the explosion set off by the second bomber, as he was reportedly close to that blast.

The Al-Mayadeen TV also reported there was a third would-be bomber, and showed a video of a bearded young man with an explosives' belt. The report said he died before he was able to detonate his explosives.

At the scene of the blasts, residents showed reporters what they said were metal pebbles that are usually put inside an explosive belt to inflict maximum casualties.

"They targeted civilians, worshippers, unarmed people, women and elderly, they only targeted innocent people," Hezbollah official Bilal Farhat told The Associated Press, calling it a "satanic, terrorist attack." Hospitals in southern Beirut called on people to do-

nate blood and appealed on residents not to gather at hospital gates so that ambulanced and emergency staff could work unhindered.

For more than an hour, ambulances struggled to ferry the wounded and the dead from the neighborhood while Lebanese troops and Hezbollah gunmen cordoned off the area, preventing anyone from getting close to the site of the two blasts, less than 50 meters (yards) apart.

"There is a massacre inside and we will not let you take photos," a Hezbollah member screamed at an Associated Press photographer at the scene.

Hezbollah called on people to leave all coffee shops in the area, which are usually packed with customers on Thursday evenings, and urged residents to inform the group about any suspicious activities. □



# Amid offensive, Iraqi Kurds cut Islamic State supply line

B. JANSSEN

S. GEORGE

Associated Press

**SINJAR, Iraq (AP)** — Supported by U.S.-led airstrikes, Kurdish Iraqi troops on Thursday seized part of a highway that is used as a vital supply line by the Islamic State group, a key initial step in a major offensive to retake the strategic town of Sinjar from the militants.

The town was overrun by the extremists as they rampaged across Iraq in August 2014, leading to the killing, enslavement and flight of thousands of people from the minority Yazidi community. The U.S. later launched an air campaign against the Islamic State militants, also known as ISIL, ISIS and, in Arabic, as Daesh.

Hours into Thursday's operation, the Kurdish Regional Security Council said its forces controlled a section of Highway 47,

which passes by Sinjar and indirectly links the militants' two biggest strongholds — Raqqa in Syria and Mosul in northern Iraq — as a route for goods, weapons and fighters.

Coalition-backed Kurdish fighters on both sides of the border are trying to retake sections of that corridor as part of Operation Free Sinjar.

"By controlling Highway 47, which is used by Daesh to transport weapons, fighters, illicit oil and other commodities that fund their operations, the coalition intends to increase pressure ... and isolate their components from each other," a coalition statement said.

It said more than 150 square kilometers (95 miles) of territory had been retaken from the Islamic State group. The coalition said 24 airstrikes were carried out over the past day, striking nine militant tactical units, nine staging areas and



**A Kurdish fighter records smoke rising over Sinjar, northern Iraq from oil fires set by Islamic State militants as Kurdish Iraqi fighters, backed by U.S.-led airstrikes, launch a major assault on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015.**

(AP Photo/Bram Janssen)

destroying 27 fighting positions, among other targets. Coalition aircraft have conducted more than 250 airstrikes in the past month across northern Iraq. The Kurdish fighters also said they had secured the villages of Gabarra, on the western front, and Tel Shore, Fadhelya and Qen on the eastern front.

About 7,500 peshmerga fighters closed in on Sinjar from three sides, the Kurdish council said. In addition to taking the town and the highway, the operation aimed to establish "a significant buffer zone to protect the city and its inhabitants from incoming artillery." Heavy gunfire broke out early Thursday as peshmer-

ga fighters began their approach amid aerial bombardment. U.S. special operations forces were operating from a hill above the fighting in Sinjar, said Col. Steven Warren, the spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition in Baghdad. U.S. advisers were also positioned with Kurdish commanders, set back from the front line and behind Sinjar mountain, to remain away from the crossfire, Warren said.

According to U.S. guidelines, the U.S. forces have stay away from the front lines and the risk of enemy fire, he said, so they are operating from safe locations on Sinjar mountain.

Warren said two teams of commandos were working with the Kurds to locate enemy targets and call the information in to the Joint Operations Center in Irbil, where military officials then direct coalition aircraft flying in the area to conduct the airstrikes. □



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## EU free travel in danger as borders tighten, fences go up



A group of migrants off an incoming train are escorted by Swedish police officers as they gather on the platform at the Swedish end of the bridge between Sweden and Denmark in Malmo Sweden. Swedish police are urging people traveling to and from neighboring countries on Thursday to bring their passports or other identification documents as the country introduces temporary border controls. The move announced by the government late Wednesday means that Sweden is temporarily suspending the European Union's passport-free travel rules to control the flow of migrants entering the country from Denmark and Germany.

(Stig Ake Jonsson/TT via AP)

**LORNE COOK  
FRANCES D'EMILIO  
Associated Press**

**VALLETTA, Malta (AP)** — Passport free travel in Europe is under threat as countries reintroduce border controls, toughen security and build fences in response to the biggest refugee emergency the continent has seen in decades. The Schengen open-borders zone uniting 30 countries is a pinnacle of European achievement. It underpins the EU economy, allowing goods, services and people to cross frontiers without checks.

But Sweden says security at its borders cannot be assured and announced that checks were resuming on Thursday, while tiny Slovenia has begun erecting a fence to stem the flow of people from Croatia, the second nation, after Hungary, to resort to such a measure.

These uncoordinated and unilateral actions in response to unpredictable movements of thousands of people have raised fresh doubts about whether the passport free area can survive the migrant challenge. "Saving Schengen is a race against time," EU Council President Donald Tusk warned on Thursday after a migration summit with European and African leaders in Malta.

He cited individual moves by Germany, Sweden, Slovenia and others in response to what they see as threats to their border security from the tens of thousands of migrants streaming in from Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

"Without effective control of our external borders, Schengen will not survive," Tusk said.

The two-day summit on the Mediterranean island was

meant to focus on how to send back to Africa those who don't qualify for asylum and discourage others from attempting the risky journey across the seas in search of a better life.

The leaders did sign up to an action plan of short and longer term measures to halt the flow of Africans coming to Europe and steps to send back those who don't qualify for asylum. They also signed on to an emergency package of migration aid worth 1.8 billion euros (\$1.9 billion) that select African nations will be able to use.

Then the Europeans quickly huddled for informal talks about how to cope with their refugee emergency. The EU estimates that 3 million more people could arrive in Europe seeking sanctuary or jobs by 2017. Many people are arriving in Europe via Turkey, and Tusk announced that the EU hopes to host a summit with Turkey in Brussels by the end of this month.

The EU is offering Turkey — which is hosting more than 2 million Syrian refugees — a package of sweeteners for it to crack down on border security, including billions of euros and speeding up its EU membership talks. Turkey has asked to be present at high-level EU meetings, and the summit is being described by EU officials as an "easy deliverable" to get Ankara to boost border security.

The mass influx has overwhelmed European border authorities and countries simply to do not have the capacity to accommodate everyone.

The leader of Sweden — with the highest number of migrants per capita in Europe — defended his country's move on border controls. □

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## Colombia to legalize commercial sale of medical marijuana

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombia's government plans to legalize the cultivation and sale of marijuana for medicinal and scientific purposes, officials said Thursday in a surprise shift by the longtime U.S. ally in the war on drugs.

The change is coming in an executive decree that President Juan Manuel Santos will soon sign into law. It will regulate regulating everything from licensing for growers to the eventual export of products made from marijuana,

Justice Minister Yesid Reyes said. With the new policy, Colombia joins countries from Mexico to Chile that have experimented with legalization or decriminalization as part of a wave of changing attitudes toward drug use and policies to combat it in Latin America. But unlike many of its neighbors, Colombia has long been identified with U.S.-backed policies to eradicate drug production and a sharp decline in levels of violence over the past 15 years is largely attributed to the no-tolerance policing.

Sen. Juan Manuel Galan, who last year introduced legislation that tracks with the government's decree, said that as many as 400,000 Colombians suffering from epilepsy and other ailments could benefit from the clearer regulatory framework to be provided by the decree.

Colombians for two decades have been allowed to possess small quantities of any narcotic for personal use thanks to a series of Constitutional Court rulings guaranteeing the "free development of one's personality." □



A youth smokes marijuana using a papaya in Medellin, Colombia. Justice Minister Yesid Reyes announced during an interview with Caracol Radio, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, that Colombia is preparing to legalize the cultivation and sale of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

(AP Photo/Luis Benavides)

"On the occasion of AHATA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we wish to thank and celebrate all the pioneers, volunteers, supporters and passionate leaders who have helped AHATA move forward and achieve its important position in the development of Aruba's Tourism Industry! Heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for another fifty years of excellence! We salute you!"



# In Cuba, searching for a lost past and finding a family

**CHRISTINE ARMARIO**

**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — I was born in the United States, but my family never let me forget that we're Cuban.

My mother cooked Cuban dishes like picadillo and ropa vieja. My grandparents spoke almost only Spanish.

But we never visited Cuba, had no contact with relatives there, no heirlooms besides a handful of black-and-white photographs.

My family left virtually everything behind when they fled Cuba in the early 1960s. They decided exile was preferable to communism and vowed never to return until Fidel Castro left power. They seldom spoke at length about the lives they once lived 90 miles from Miami, where my parents met and I was born.

Growing up, I longed for a link to the country that formed such a crucial part of our identity. I couldn't have imagined it would take more than a decade to begin to uncover my family's past.

In 2003, at age 20, I spent



**This Armario Oct 1, 2015 family photo, courtesy of Associated Press reporter Christine Armario, shows Christine, left, and her cousin Sonia Armario as they pose for a photo in Sonia's home in Havana, Cuba. Christine Armario's father lived in the same home as a young child. On a recent trip to Cuba, Armario knocked on the door and discovered she had distant relatives with the same last name still living in the home.**

**(Family photo provided by Christine Armario via AP)**

six months studying at the University of Havana. When I told people I was born to Cuban parents in Miami they said, "Welcome back." But when it came to links to the past, I came up empty-handed.

My father's family home in Havana had been turned into a school, its contents emptied. In Cienfuegos, the southern city where my mother was born, I found the house where relatives said my grandmother,

Margarita, had buried her jewelry in the courtyard before she and my grandfather fled with my mother and her two siblings. It had been converted into a residence for port workers, the courtyard covered in cement.

I returned again this year as five decades of diplomatic animosity between the U.S. and Cuba began to close. I spent two weeks reporting on the island around Pope Francis' trip to the country. Armed with skills from 13 years as a reporter, I assembled a new list of old addresses and squeezed in trips to the homes where my family once lived.

When I got to San Lazaro Street, where my father once lived in Havana, a woman approached me and asked who I was looking for. I explained that my father and grandparents once lived in a house on the street.

"What was their last name?" she asked me.

"Armario," I said.

"The Armarios?" she said.

"They live right there."

She pointed to an aqua-colored house across the street. A petite woman with white hair answered a knock on the door.

"Hi," I said. "My family used

to live on this street and someone just told me you have the last name Armario."

"Yes," she said. "I am Sonia Armario."

"This will sound strange," I told her. "But my last name is Armario, too."

She looked just as confused as I did and invited me into her home. Bit by bit, we began connecting the dots of our fractured family.

She was the daughter of my great-grandfather's brother, a man I had never heard of named Francisco Armario Caro. Francisco and my great-grandfather, Manuel, were incredibly close, she said. They both worked on Havana's once elaborate system of street cars and were, "like one," she added, words that struck with a pang of sadness as I imagined what it must have been like for them to part.

Even sadder, their story had almost entirely been lost.

When my grandfather left Cuba, his father continued to live in the same house with his brother. When all his children were in Miami, my great-grandfather left, too. He and his brother never saw each other again. "They couldn't stay in touch," one of my cousins, who was among those gathered in the living room of the old family home, told me.

Sonia took me through the house, a small, well-kept home which, she said, looked nothing like it did in the 1950s when my father and his family lived there. The furniture had been replaced, the rooms remodeled. The ceiling to the front living room collapsed in the 1970s, destroying almost all its red and gray tiled floor. "The only thing left is us," she said.

Sonia took out a plastic bag filled with black-and-white photographs, some early shots of relatives I knew in Miami but had never seen in their youth, and others of family members I never knew existed. It was Francisco's face that haunted me the most. □

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**W**e want to offer our most sincere congratulations to AHATA on its 50th anniversary...





## Aruba Marine Park Foundation & Aruba Wine and Dine to host Fundraising Event

--Save the Reefs! Great People, lots of wine, awesome food and a great view - tickets are now on sale for Sunday, November 29, from 7pm - 10pm.

**PALM BEACH** - To create more awareness and raise funds, Aruba's Marine Park Foundation will host their 2nd Annual Sunset Lionfish and Wine Tasting Fundraiser Event upstairs from the Hadicurari Restaurant. Upstairs in the Clubhouse, party-goers can expect a lovely spot to view the sunset and the uber-talented chef, Erwin Husker of the Screaming Eagle Fine Dining Restaurant will create culinary highlights along with a team of other fabulous chefs to benefit the Aruba Marine Park Foundation.

Skillful, Samurai chef, Adriani Geerman of the E Sushi Shap in Tanki Leendert will wow guests again with his tasty samplings of Lionfish sushi. Each chef has an obsession for truly great cuisine and both offer delightful menu choices with Lionfish on their popular restaurant menus.

"There's lots of good reasons why more of our Island's restaurant menus should offer more healthy and tasty Lionfish on their menus. There's just too many invasive Lionfish swimming in our ocean and the population needs to be controlled", explains marine biologist Byron Boekhoudt. As coordinator of the Save the Reef Party Fundraiser, Boekhoudt will be welcoming guests and fielding Lionfish questions at this Event.



Miss Feranda Gimenez of Mendoza, Argentina will keep spirits

buoyed, with a wine pairing courtesy of Romar Trading, for each of the Lionfish dishes served.

The Aruba Marine Park Foundation has also partnered up with Wine and Dine talent Ron van der Put and International chef and volunteer Lionfish Hunter, Ilja Cybulski, to circulate several bite size tastings from E Sushi Shap, Screaming Eagle and the popular group of Aruba Wine and Dine Restaurants. All proceeds from the Lionfish Fundraiser will go directly towards education and protection efforts of Aruba's spectacular underwater landscapes and coral reefs. Party tickets for Lionfish and Wine sampling can be purchased at the Jolly Pirates Gift shop at MooMba Beach. Call 586- 8107 for more details. □

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## VIP's Enjoy Cocktail Party at Hadicurari Restaurant Hosted by Federico Trost



**ORANJESTAD** – Romar Trading Company importers of fine wines and spirits welcomed the Export Manager of Santa Margherita, the famed Italian winery to Aruba with a series of lavishly orchestrated events. The long awaited Cocktail Party in Federico Trost's honor unfolded at Hadicurari Restaurant just recently, and featured a wonderful selection of the winery's portfolio, starting with Santa Margherita Prosecco, then following in the course of the evening with Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio, Santa Margherita Chianti Classico and Santa Margherita Sparkling Rose. Music by the Bamboo band and delicious seafood hors-d'oeuvres by Chef Ronald entertained an A-list of dignitaries and local celebrities, by the light of the moon, at the water's edge.

Trost shared with the dignitaries the story of the winery's most important product, the Pinot Grigio. He reported that in the 1970's, Anthony Terlato became the #1 importer of premium Italian wines to the USA, and he believed that there was an opportunity for quality Italian wines beyond traditional Italian restaurant wine lists. He also believed wine lovers were ready to experience a truly high-end Italian white. While in Italy, he explored a range of regions and varietals and determined that Pinot Grigio was the wine that could revolutionize the perception of Italian wines in high-

end restaurants. Then one day, in a restaurant in Italy, he ordered all 18 Pinot Grigios on the list and tasted every one. When he tasted Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio from the Marzotto family, he knew he had found his varietal and the proper relationship to embark on a promotional journey. Tony has been called "the father of Pinot Grigio" and



"one of the most accomplished wine personalities on the planet" for pioneering regions, varietals and brands from around the world. Pioneering the Pinot Grigio category in America with Santa Margherita, he created the most successful brand and established Pinot Grigio as a much-loved varietal around the world. Crisp, elegant Santa Margherita remains the leading Pinot Grigio brand and still captures the imagination of wine lovers across the country.

Pictured here Clive Faustin and Paola Kelly, Romar Trading, welcoming guests to the lovely party venue, for an evening of wine and food pairing. □





## The Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association is Celebrating 50 Years!

**EAGLE, ORANJESTAD** - The Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, A.H.A.T.A., is celebrating 50 years since its inception in 1965. AHATA was first established in 1966 as the Aruba Hotel Association. Later, in 1987, in order to broaden the scope of the organization and include more members in tourism related businesses, the name was changed to AHATA, the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association.

Original members, hotelier Ike Cohen and Publisher Rory Arends report that the Cactus Inn, Hotel Nassau, the Coral Strand Hotel and the Aruba Caribbean were the first members to join, they had their eyes on a prosperous future and they understood that tourism will eventually become a major economic pillar for the island.

The seeds of collaboration between the private sector and the public sector were introduced as early as 1966 when Rory Arends at the time Commissioner of Tourism and a government official joined the board of AHA as commissioner. The hoteliers and the government representatives banded together determined to explore marketing avenues for the island's emerging hospitality industry.

Incidentally, Arends will later become AHATA's CEO, and oversee the expansion of its role even further in the 90s. Local hotelier Ike Cohen went on to become the Caribbean Hotel Association's first recipient of the Golden Conch award, when the regional award was created in 1978.

AHATA's first modest headquarters were situated in Bubali, at a tiny office fondly referred to as the Bubali Hilton. The office later moved to the administrator's house. Henk Smouter who served the organization for 13 years, used his private residence as AHATA's command center.

As the organization con-

tinued to grow, it moved into a historic building in Eagle, where it is still operating. The old guard house of the Eagle oil refinery was first rented, then with the help of Caribbe-

Israel; some as Association Presidents – Jan de Ruiter, Brian Reeves, Gerrit Griffith, Ed Malone, Hendrick Santos, Eduardo de Veer, Alex Nieuwmeyer, Jeff Lesker, Alfonso Riv-

& Donna Del Gallo, executives Charly Ibbara and Adwina Arends. They are assigned great responsibilities in working a dynamic full time marketing organization, under the

banks, car rentals, communication companies, Destination Management Companies, wedding organizers, restaurants, publications besides naturally hotels, resorts and development companies.

During its 50 year existence, A.H.A.T.A. has come to be recognized both in Aruba and overseas as the primary private sector representative of Aruba's tourism industry. Hotels and resorts, destination management companies, the airport, banks, restaurants and small service providers now form part of one of the most well respected tourism associations in the entire Caribbean.

A.H.A.T.A.'s mission is to support the building of the brand of Aruba and to ensure a satisfied Aruba visitor through first, its membership on the board of directors of Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.), and secondly by advocating labor, fiscal, environmental and cost of doing business issues, as well as offering opportunities in networking, education and a greater degree of visibility and industry participation. A.H.A.T.A. boasts a small professional staff, led by the President and C.E.O, Mr. Jim Hepple. With the support of a diverse member base, the Association maintains a close working partnership with the Aruba Tourism Authority, (A.T.A.), and collaborates with other non-governmental organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, the Aruba Trade Industry Association, the Aruba Timeshare Association, the Main Street Merchants Association and the San Nicolas Business Association.

A.H.A.T.A. will celebrate this remarkable 50 year milestone on Friday, 13th November, 2015, in the Marriott Grand Ballroom where its staff and members will have the opportunity to combine business and networking with pleasure. □



an Mercantile Bank, purchased and refurbished to contain the nerve center of hospitality in Aruba, conveniently located just a few steps away from the government's Aruba Tourism Authority.

Many famous names, movers and shakers of this community, went through an AHATA phase sometime during their illustrious career, some in an executive position – Michael Kuiperi, Anabela Peterson, Adwina Arends, Fritz

eroll, and Jorge Pesquera. Significant changes in AHATA's structure were made by President & CEO Jorge Pesquera. They were aimed at delivering superb marketing support and membership services, distinguishing AHATA as one of the premiere hotel and tourism associations in the Caribbean.

AHATA hosted the completely re-organized Aruba Meeting & Convention Bureau, with Vice Presidents Mayline Menendez

leadership of Scott Wiggins, Senior Director of Sales and Marketing for North America and Director of Operations for the Aruba Meetings and Convention Bureau.

In the office Dyane Vis, Nathaly Wouters, Francie Croes and the ever helpful Anky Nucete as well as hotelier Ed Malone, in charge of special projects, did their share in supporting the organization which was made up of airlines, attractions,



# Congratulations

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# Real Island Life: Notes From A Day On Aruba!



**PALM BEACH** - First of all, I like to welcome you to my island in the sun. Aruba's weather is always so predictable (hot and windy) and that might be the main reason you decided to come visit us. Of course besides the sun there is much more like: beaches, restaurants, shopping, gambling, activities and more. Talking about all those fun things to do here, if you live on the island full time, and work every day, you might forget that we truly live in a paradise. Of course on your off day you might go swimming or drive around but it is after a few more days at home when you

start realizing how beautiful our island really is. So I took some time to "smell the ocean breeze"..... I truly think that all locals should do so, once in a while, to appreciate where we live and what we have. ☐ Enjoy breakfast outside in your patio or yard. Breathe in and out.... Let it sink in a little. No rush and no hurry. Take time to enjoy your fresh squeezed lemon juice from your backyard trees with a fish omelet (left over's from last night's incredible catch of the day). Grab an ice cooler, fill it up with anything you like to drink cold, and start driving. Of course you can get in an air-conditioned car,

but also nice for the experience are the open-air jeeps. In that case all you

need is to protect yourself with sun block because our sun is really strong-I recom-

mend Aruba Aloe brand!

*Continued on Page 18*





## Island Life

Continued from Page 17

Packed with a towel and the ice cooler I started driv-

ing along the coast line. Never realized how many different shades of blue really exist in the ocean. I counted at least 9 different types of blues-just like

you see in famous movies like the "blue lagoon". First stop was the famous Charlie's Bar in San Nicolaas Main Street. Generation after generation of



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Charlie's have been running this cozy place, where you can spend hours looking around and identifying all the things visiting tourists have left behind to personalize the bar, like baseball caps, business cards, license plates and of course weird kind of souvenirs. Go check it out yourself..... Up to Baby Beach and Rogers beach. These are the places locals go. This is where we teach our kids to swim. Calm and shallow waters, lots of space to lie out and catch some sun. If you pick a spot close to the Snack Container where they sell burger and refreshments you can enjoy 24-7 "golden oldies". Music you grew up with..... After a few hours of "vegging" on the beach staring at the turquoise ocean and

listening to the birds that fly by and walk around it is time to get some food. Zeerovers in Savaneta is the place to go. Simple, clean and oh so good! The freshest fish on the island, brought in directly by our local fisherman. You order by the piece and or pound and as little or as much as you want. The price for fish and chips is so good that you for sure would ask: "is that all"? No fancy dinner ware, just plain easy simple plastic but I promise you that you will be licking your fingers while enjoying a few drinks and the best sunset on the island, island style..... You see now that a day in Aruba can fly by as long as you have fun enjoy every moment of it. Yes, you are in PARADISE!!! ☐





## Garcia leads drizzly BMW Masters in Shanghai by 1 stroke



Sergio Garcia of Spain tees off on the 15th hole during the first round of the BMW Masters golf tournament at the Lake Malaren Golf Club in Shanghai, China Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015.

(AP Photo)

**JUSTIN BERGMAN**

**Associated Press**

**SHANGHAI (AP)** — Sergio

Garcia is winding down his European Tour season just as everyone else is gearing up for the grand finale, next week's DP World Tour Championship.

Even though Garcia isn't playing next week and is already focusing on 2016, he still wants to wrap up this season on a strong note by taking the title this weekend at the BMW Masters in Shanghai.

The Spaniard is off to a quick start, shooting an 8-under 64 to take a one-stroke lead over Victor Dubuisson and An Byeong-hun after the first round on Thursday. Garcia birdied

four of his first five holes and added another five after the turn to equal his best round on the European Tour this year in a persistent drizzle that soaked the course and led to low scoring at Lake Malaren Golf Club. "I drove the ball very well and that gave me a lot of opportunities to hit some good iron shots," he said. "It was the kind of round that you're looking for." Dubuisson has already found what he's looking for, a rich vein of form. The Frenchman won the Turkish Airlines Open two weeks ago in stirring fashion when he made three birdies on his last four holes to overtake Jaco Van Zyl.

On Thursday, he picked up

right where he left off by making seven birdies in a blemish-free round.

"I feel so good on the

greens," Dubuisson said. "When I read the line good, the putt can only go in the hole, and you don't

have this feeling much of the time."

**Continued on Page 20**



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## Garcia leads drizzly BMW Masters in Shanghai by 1 stroke

*Continued from Page 19*

Ross Fisher of England and Lucas Bjerregaard of Denmark were another stroke back in equal-fourth.

Fisher, who had six birdies and no bogeys in his

round of 66, almost didn't play this week after receiving only a 10-day visa from the Chinese government before last week's HSBC Champions in Shanghai.

He said he was turned away when he tried to ex-

tend the visa at the Shanghai Entry-Exit Bureau on Monday, but was finally successful after receiving an 11th-hour letter from local sports officials supporting the extension.

"There were a lot of papers

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Thorbjorn Olesen of Denmark tees off on the 15th hole during the first round of the BMW Masters golf tournament at the Lake Malaren Golf Club in Shanghai, China Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015. (AP Photo)

flying around, there were a lot of phone calls, emails being sent," he said. "To say it was a stressful buildup to today would be an understatement. There were times when I was thinking I might be booking a flight to go home."

Paul Casey, who eagled the par-4 14th hole, Thongchai Jaidee, and Justin Rose were three strokes behind Garcia at 5 under, and a group of nine players was another shot back at 4 under, including Henrik Stenson, Ian Poulter, and 18-year-old Dou Zecheng

of China.

The BMW Masters is the third of four events in the European Tour's Final Series, ending with next week's World Tour Championship in Dubai. Race to Dubai leader Rory McIlroy is skipping the BMW Masters, giving Danny Willett, immediately behind him in the standings, a chance to make up ground. But Willett, who can overtake McIlroy this week by finishing in 28th place or better, was well off the pace after shooting even-par. He was in a tie for 48th. □





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## As 3 NFL teams eye 16-0, a list of 2nd-half games to watch

**HOWARD FENDRICH**  
**AP Pro Football Writer**

Never before have three NFL teams started 8-0 in the same season, so as long as the New England Patriots, Cincinnati Bengals and Carolina Panthers remain unbeaten, their pursuits of perfection will draw plenty of attention.

Those teams' quarterbacks — Tom Brady, Andy Dalton and Cam Newton — also will be worth keeping an eye on in the MVP race.

Unfortunately, from the perspective of football fans and TV executives, none of those teams will face each other the rest of the way in the regular season for what would have been a much-hyped showdown.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Detroit Lions, at 1-7 owners of the league's worst record, are in pole position for the No. 1 overall pick in next year's draft. The Lions' remaining schedule does not include any of the teams currently with two victories.

That doesn't mean, of course, that there aren't must-see matchups in Weeks 10 through 17.

Here's a look at some of the most intriguing games to watch in the NFL's second half:

**PATRIOTS AT GIANTS** in Week 10: The last time Brady and Co. were 8-0 was in 2007, and the Patriots wound up getting all the way to 18-0 before losing to Eli Manning's Giants in the Super Bowl. New York and coach Tom Coughlin defeated New England and coach Bill Belichick in another Super Bowl four seasons later.

**COWBOYS AT DOLPHINS** in Week 11: Dallas hasn't

won since QB Tony Romo went out in Week 2 with a broken collarbone; he is eligible to come off injured reserve for this game, which might be too late to save the Cowboys' season.

**BILLS AT PATRIOTS** in Week 11: Ryan vs. Belichick. Enough said.

**PACKERS AT VIKINGS** in Week 11, **VIKINGS AT PACKERS** in Week 17: Who thought Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay would be tied for the NFC North lead with Minnesota at the midway point?

**PATRIOTS AT BRONCOS** in Week 12: Brady and Denver's Peyton Manning renew their rivalry in a prime-time game, and the Broncos finally have a topflight defense to throw at the Patriots.

**FALCONS AT PANTHERS** in Week 14, **PANTHERS AT FALCONS** in Week 16: Only three of Carolina's eight games still on the schedule come against teams that have winning records right now — and two are against NFC South rival Atlanta.

**PACKERS AT CARDINALS** in Week 16: Assuming Rodgers and Green Bay emerge from their current funk, this could be a key late-season measuring stick for two of the NFC's better teams.

**BENGALS AT BRONCOS** in Week 16: The AFC's two best teams not based in the Northeast.

**49ERS AT LIONS** in Week 16: The No. 1 draft pick and the futures of QBs Colin Kaepernick and Matthew Stafford could be at stake.

**BUCCANEERS AT PANTHERS**, **RAVENS AT BENGALS**, **PATRIOTS AT DOLPHINS** in Week 17: Could 16-0 be on the line? □



In this photo taken Oct. 29, 2015, New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski (87) celebrates his touchdown in the first half an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins in Foxborough, Mass. Never before have three NFL teams started 8-0 in the same season, so as long as the New England Patriots, Cincinnati Bengals and Carolina Panthers remain unbeaten, their pursuits of perfection will draw plenty of attention.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)



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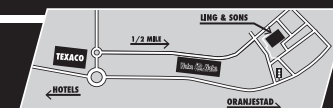


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## NBA Capsules:

# Warriors remain unbeaten with 100-84 win over Grizzlies

### MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Stephen Curry scored 28 points and Andre Iguodala added 20 as the Golden State Warriors matched a club record for most wins to start a season with a 100-84 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday night.

Harrison Barnes added 19 points for Golden State, which won its ninth straight to open the season. Curry's was 9 of 21 from the field, but only 3 of 10 from outside the arc. The Warriors finished shooting 41 percent from 3-point range, 11 of 27.

Marc Gasol had 26 points, Zach Randolph added 19 and Tony Allen finished with 15 as the Grizzlies lost their fourth straight.

The game was the first between the teams since the Warriors defeated Memphis 119-69 on Nov. 2, the worst loss in franchise history.

### 118, CLIPPERS 108

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki scored a season-high 31 points to lead Dallas over Los Angeles in DeAndre Jordan's first visit since

bounds with a minus-23 scoring margin while he was in the game.

Wesley Matthews, the free agent who kept his pledge to Dallas, also had a season high with 25 points.

with a bruised right hip sustained Tuesday against Dallas in the Pelicans' first win of the season. Horford took advantage by making 11 of 15 shots, including 4 of 6 from 3-point range.

and 11 assists for his second double-double.

Jerryd Bayless had 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for Milwaukee.

Before the game, the Nuggets announced forward Wilson Chandler will have season-ending surgery to repair a labral tear in his right hip.

### RAPTORS 119, 76ERS 103

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kyle Lowry scored 23 points and Luis Scola had 21 to lead Toronto over winless Philadelphia.

One year after starting 0-17, the Sixers have lost their first eight games this season. Philadelphia has lost 18 straight games dating to March 27, 2015, the fourth-longest mark in franchise history.

Scola scored 17 points on 8-for-10 shooting in the third quarter.

Lowry, a Philadelphia native, scored 14 points in the first half, capped by a 27-footer with 0.9 seconds left to send the Raptors into halftime with a 63-57 lead. The Raptors built a 20-point lead in the third and left no doubt about the outcome.

### MAGIC 101, LAKERS 99

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Nik Vucevic hit a fallaway 18-footer at the buzzer as Orlando edged Los Angeles.

Shabazz Napier led Orlando with 22 points, including five 3-pointers, and Evan Fournier added 16 for the Magic, who got 65 points from their reserves including 18 from Vucevic, who came off the bench for the first time in his four seasons in Orlando.

Magic guard Victor Oladipo left the game in the first quarter with a concussion and did not return. □

### SPURS 113, TRAIL BLAZERS 101

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 23 points in his return to Portland, leading San Antonio over the Trail Blazers.

Aldridge, who played nine seasons in Portland before leaving as a free agent this summer, added six rebounds. Kawhi Leonard finished with 20 points for the Spurs, who won their third straight.

Damian Lillard led the Blazers with 22 points, including five 3-pointers, and nine assists. Portland has lost three straight. Aldridge set franchise records for rebounds and double-doubles, while finishing second to Clyde Drexler in points. He was greeted by a mix of cheers and boos from the fans at the Moda Center. MAVERICKS



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) chases the ball after knocking it loose from Memphis Grizzlies guard Courtney Lee in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, in Memphis, Tenn.

(AP Photo/Brandon Dill)

backing out on an agreement to sign with the Mavericks in free agency.

A tight second half upstaged the sideshow of the return of Jordan, who was booed throughout before coach Doc Rivers pulled him in the fourth quarter with Dallas successfully using the hack-a-Jordan tactic against one of the NBA's worst free throw shooters. Zaza Pachulia, the consolation prize at center after Dallas missed out on Jordan, made two free throws to put Dallas ahead for good at 108-106.

As Dallas pulled away in the final minute, the crowd chanted a derogatory phrase at Jordan, who had nine points and 11 re-

Blake Griffin led Los Angeles with 21 points.

### HAWKS 106, PELICANS 98

ATLANTA (AP) — Al Horford scored 26 points as Atlanta rallied past injury-depleted New Orleans, which led much of the way but couldn't hang on without Anthony Davis.

After trailing by 12 points in the first half, the Hawks pulled away down the stretch. Paul Millsap converted a couple of three-point plays to help seal the victory for Atlanta, which bounced back from a home loss to Minnesota two nights earlier.

The Hawks didn't have to worry about Davis. The star center missed the game

Millsap was also a force, finishing with 19 points and 16 rebounds.

Eric Gordon led New Orleans with 26 points.

### NUGGETS 103, BUCKS 102

DENVER (AP) — Kenneth Faried rebounded Danilo Gallinari's errant shot in the lane for a putback with 5 seconds remaining to give Denver a victory over Milwaukee.

Khris Middleton's shot from the corner rimmed out at the buzzer as the Bucks lost for the sixth straight time in Denver.

Gallinari had 25 points to lead the Nuggets, and Faried finished with 19. Rookie guard Emmanuel Mudiay added 16 points





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## Asia's big 3 all win comfortably in World Cup qualifiers



Hiroki Fujiharu of Japan, second right, celebrates scoring the opening goal against Singapore during their second round soccer match of regional qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015 in Singapore. (AP Photo/Joseph Nair)

**JOHN DUERDEN**  
Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — Japan, Australia, and South Korea enjoyed comfortable wins in Asia qualifying for the 2018 World Cup on Thursday. Son Heung-min came off the bench to provide two

assists as South Korea beat Myanmar 4-0. Along with Qatar, South Korea is the only team in the second round of qualifying with a perfect five wins from five games. "We dominated the game and I am pleased with our performance," said South

Korea coach Uli Stielike after watching his team's 15th win in 2015. "We expected that Myanmar would be defensive, but we showed what we could do early in the game and made a good start." European-based Keisuke Honda and Maya Yoshida

scored Japan's second and third goals in a 3-0 win in Singapore to put them top of Group E, above Syria. Australia bounced back from October's loss in Jordan to defeat Kyrgyzstan 3-0 in Canberra, and move within a point of Jordan. Mile Jedinak scored from the spot just before the break, Tim Cahill added a second just after and an Ildar Amirov own goal sealed the win. "I would have preferred we won 10-0 which we should have. If you look at the number of chances we created, the way we played our football, I was very happy," Australia coach Ange Postecoglou told reporters. Iran moved to the top of Group D with a 3-1 win over Turkmenistan in Tehran

while Thailand extended its lead at the top of Group F with a 4-2 victory against Chinese Taipei. Hong Kong kept its hopes alive with a 1-0 win in the Maldives and hosts China in Group C on November 17. China won 12-0 at home to Bhutan. Elsewhere, Yemen won 1-0 at the Philippines, North Korea lost 3-1 in Uzbekistan, Afghanistan defeated Cambodia 3-0 and Tajikistan thrashed Bangladesh 5-0. India ended a run of five defeats in qualification with a 1-0 victory at home to Guam. In Group A, United Arab Emirates put pressure on Saudi Arabia with an 8-0 win over Timor Leste while Malaysian woes continued after losing 6-0 to the Palestinian team. □

## Morocco, Guinea win in World Cup qualifying as Uganda upsets in Togo

**GERALD IMRAY**  
AP Sports Writer

Morocco, Guinea and Congo all won their first-leg games in World Cup qualifying on Thursday, while there were upsets as Uganda won in Togo and Benin beat Burkina Faso. Africa's biggest teams are entering the competition in the second round, where 40 teams are vying for a place in a final group stage. Africa's five qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup in Russia will emerge from that group

stage. Morocco beat Equatorial Guinea 2-0 at home in Agadir despite losing defender Adil Karrouchi to a red card early in the second half. Youssef El Arabi hit the opener from close range in the first half and Yacine Bammou scored in the 66th, after Karrouchi's straight red card. Morocco heads to Bata for Sunday's second leg. Guinea won 1-0 in Namibia with forward Naby Keita's 27th-minute goal. Guinea also survived with 10 men

for the last 40 minutes after Bamba Fousseni was sent off following a second yellow card. Guinea is a strong favorite to progress with its home leg to come. Uganda took some revenge after losing twice to Togo in qualifying for this year's African Cup of Nations, winning 1-0 away in Lome on Thursday. Farouk Miya scored in the 39th-minute with a curling shot. Togo's Mathieu Dossevi had a penalty saved in the second half. □



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# A November stock slide continues as oil, metals prices fall

**MARLEY JAY**

**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A deepening slump in prices for oil, metals and other commodities sent stock prices lower on Thursday. Major market indexes opened lower and the selling accelerated as the day wore on. The drop in oil and metals prices hurt mining, metals and energy stocks. Stocks began sliding early this month and have

returned some of the gains from a powerful rally in October.

The Dow Jones industrial average sank 254.15 points, or 1.4 percent, to 17,448.07. The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 29.03 points, or 1.4 percent, to 2,045.97. The Nasdaq composite index fell 61.94 points, or 1.2 percent, to 5,005.08.

The S&P 500 has fallen for six out of the last seven days, and Thursday's de-



Traders Richard Newman, left, and James Riley work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A deepening slump in prices for oil, metals and other commodities sent stock prices lower on Thursday. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

cline was the largest over that span. While October was the best month for the market in four years, the S&P 500 is now down slightly this year. The Dow average is also lower in 2015. Mike McGlone, head of U.S. research for ETF Securities, said investors are coming to grips with the fact that the Federal Reserve is about to start raising interest rates, ending an era of stimulus policies that have boosted stocks. At the same time, stocks could get hurt by warning signs about the U.S. economy, like weak jobs data or disappointing earnings. "Now we have almost a lose-lose situation" for

stocks, McGlone said.

Precious metals prices surged during the Great Recession, but in recent years many investors bought stocks instead, leading to a sustained slide in the prices of gold and silver. Metals like copper and steel have been hurt by the sluggish global economy, and copper prices are down 23 percent this year. All three fell Thursday after the head of Europe's central bank said new stimulus measures may be put in place next month. That would boost the dollar at the expense of the euro. The central bank of Japan is also considering stimulus moves, which would make the dollar stronger com-

pared to the yen.

Gold declined \$3.90 to \$1,081 an ounce and silver fell for the tenth consecutive day, losing 3.8 cents to \$14.225 an ounce. It's down 11 percent since late October. Copper fell 4.6 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$2.173 a pound. Copper prices have tumbled 23 percent this year. Mining and metals companies retreated. Freeport-McMoRan dropped 54 cents, or 5.8 percent, to \$8.77. Its stock has skidded 69 percent over the past year. Steel maker Nucor fell \$1.11, or 2.7 percent, to \$40.11. Nucor has lost a quarter of its value in the past year. □

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*By the Sea*  
MON 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:10  
FRI 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:10  
SAT 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:50  
SUN & HOL 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:10

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FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50  
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50  
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

CHRIS J. MURRAY | BRIT SHAW  
**PARANORMAL ACTIVITY**  
THE GHOST DIMENSION  
MON-THURS 5:00 | 9:25  
FRI 5:00 | 9:25 | 11:40  
SAT 5:00 | 9:25 | 11:40  
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FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50  
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50  
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40

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FRI 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55  
SAT 1:45 | 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55  
SUN & HOL 1:45 | 4:45 | 7:50

VIN DIESEL | ROSE LESLIE  
**THE LAST WITCH HUNTER**  
MON-THURS 9:00  
FRI 9:00 | 11:25  
SAT 9:00 | 11:25  
SUN & HOL 9:00

MATT DAMON | JESSICA CHASTAIN  
MATT DAMON  
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MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:50  
SAT 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50  
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FRI 7:10  
SAT 2:40 | 7:10  
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 7:10

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## Siemens boosts dividend, announces buyback

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**

— Industrial equipment maker Siemens AG said Thursday it would increase its dividend and return billions to shareholders after a strong year.

The Munich-based company said it met its key profitability target in the fiscal year 2015, with a profit margin of 10.1 percent within its stated goal of 10-11 percent. Management predicted increased sales and earnings for 2016.

For the full business year, which for Siemens ended with the close of the July-September quarter, net

income rose 34 percent to 7.4 billion euros (\$7.9 billion). Revenue rose 6 percent to 75.6 billion euros. Siemens makes big-ticket equipment for companies and governments such as power turbines, trains and medical diagnostic machines.

Orders rose 15 percent in the fourth quarter, an important figure for future earnings since the company's big projects operate with long lead times.

Management proposed a dividend of 3.50 euros for the 2015 fiscal year, up from 3.40 euros from a year

earlier, and announced it would buy back up to 3 billion euros in shares, as well as pay 200 million euros to employees in profit sharing. The company's shares jump 3.3 percent to 95.17 euros in early afternoon trading in Europe. Share buybacks can support share prices, and if the shares are then cancelled can mean more earnings per share.

"We delivered what we promised, and are well positioned to deliver on our plans for the year ahead," said CEO Joe Kaeser in a statement. □



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## Wal-Mart syncs Black Friday deals online, in stores

**MAE ANDERSON**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Wal-Mart Stores says it is offering most of the same Black Friday “doorbuster” deals online and in stores for the first time and giving online shoppers an early jump on the sales.

The world's largest retailer is heading into the holiday season with a turnaround plan after being battered by the economy and tough competition. Wal-Mart's U.S. CEO Greg Foran is spearheading a major overhaul of the stores that includes basics like making sure stores are cleaner and well stocked.

The busy shopping day after Thanksgiving Day known as “Black Friday” has been encroaching on the holiday in recent years. But this year Wal-Mart Stores is giving those who would rather shop on their couch in P.J.s more access to Black Friday sales. Most — about 96 percent — of deals offered the holiday will be offered both online — starting at 3:01 a.m. E.T. on Thanksgiving morning — and in stores — starting at 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

That's up from 90 percent last year.

The company will also be offering all the deals at one time, rather than spreading them out for limited times at different parts of the shopping day.

“Customers today are bombarded with different messages and different offers,” said Steve Bratspies, chief merchandising officer of Walmart U.S., at a media event at its store in Secaucus, New Jersey, on Wednesday. □

## Big beer merger leaves future uncertain for competitors

**DANICA KIRKA**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — It's no fun being in the middle. Heineken, Molson Coors and Carlsberg are sto-

Discussions about world domination heightened Wednesday when Budweiser maker Anheuser-Busch InBev agreed to buy SABMiller for 71 billion

cerns in the United States, SABMiller will sell its 58 percent stake in a venture with fellow brewer Molson Coors for \$12 billion. But AB InBev would still be

editor of Beverage Digest. “There's a lot of room to play.”

Beer companies have tried to counter the trend by buying craft brewers.



Bottles of Budweiser beer are seen in a shop window in London. Budweiser maker Anheuser-Busch InBev on Wednesday Nov. 11, 2015 announced a final agreement to buy SABMiller for 71 billion pounds (\$107 billion), in a deal that will combine the world's two biggest brewers and create a company that makes almost a third of the beer consumed worldwide.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

ried brewers that trace their roots back hundreds of years and have loyal drinkers around the world. But the merger of their two biggest competitors leaves such mid-size brewers without a clear way forward.

They find themselves squeezed between a Goliath that will produce almost a third of the world's beer and a growing army of craft brewers.

Some experts say the mid-sized brewers should respond by pursuing takeovers of their own. Others argue that would do little good because the underlying problem is that consumers are increasingly drinking craft beers, not mass market brands.

“There are so many craft beers out there,” said Jonny Forsyth, a global drinks analyst at Mintel. “They can't buy them all up.”

pounds (\$107 billion). That combination would account for 29 percent of the world beer market, making it three times bigger than its nearest rival Heineken, with a mere 9 percent, according to the market data firm Euromonitor.

Beer makers looking to bulk up in response will have few options because some of the likely targets are privately held and not interested in selling, said Jeremy Cunningham, the senior alcoholic drinks analyst for Euromonitor.

“There isn't that much else to buy or acquire,” Cunningham said.

Heineken N.V. has public shareholders, but the family owns 50.5 percent of the shares, “retaining family involvement and vision.” Carlsberg is also controlled by a foundation, which has 75 percent of the votes.

To ease regulatory con-

the No. 1 player in North America — as well as Australasia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. In Europe, it would lag behind only Carlsberg in the east and Heineken in the west, according to Euromonitor.

AB InBev was attracted to the deal because it wants to grow sales through SABMiller's brands in Africa and Asia, where drinkers are expected to increasingly buy brand beers as their wealth increases.

In developed markets, by contrast, the big companies are seeing sales decline and trying to fight off an onslaught of craft brewers. Consumers, bored with the previous offers, began fleeing the big brands in the 1980s in favor of more complicated craft brews.

“Beer drinkers ... these days are far less brand loyal,” said Duane Stanford

They have also tried to replicate what the craft brewers have done or at least evoke their ethos. Carlsberg, for example, calls their founder “probably the first hipster,” and said he opened his first micro-brewery in 1847.

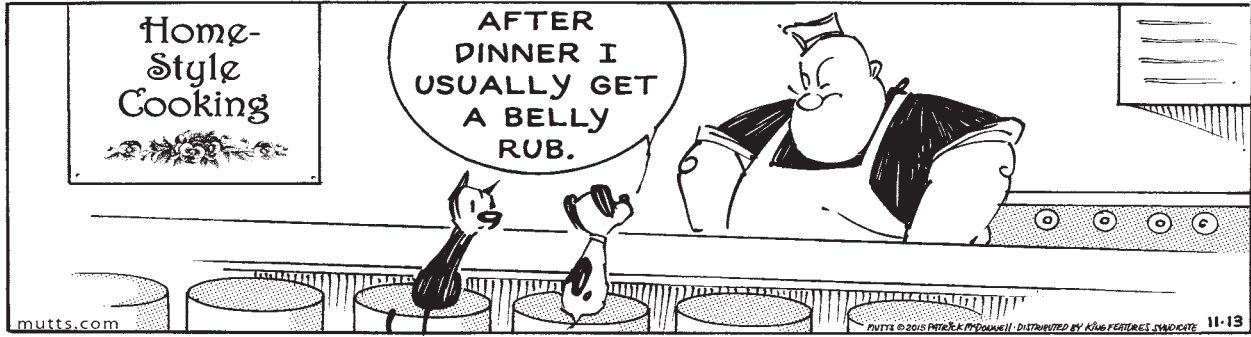
AB InBev's deal is far from completion, facing regulatory hurdles in the United States, China and South Africa. Craft brewers are among those watching things closely.

The Brewer's Association, the trade body for America's 4,000 small and independent breweries, urged the Department of Justice and Congress to closely examine the merger's “potential effects on the U.S. marketplace and American consumers.”

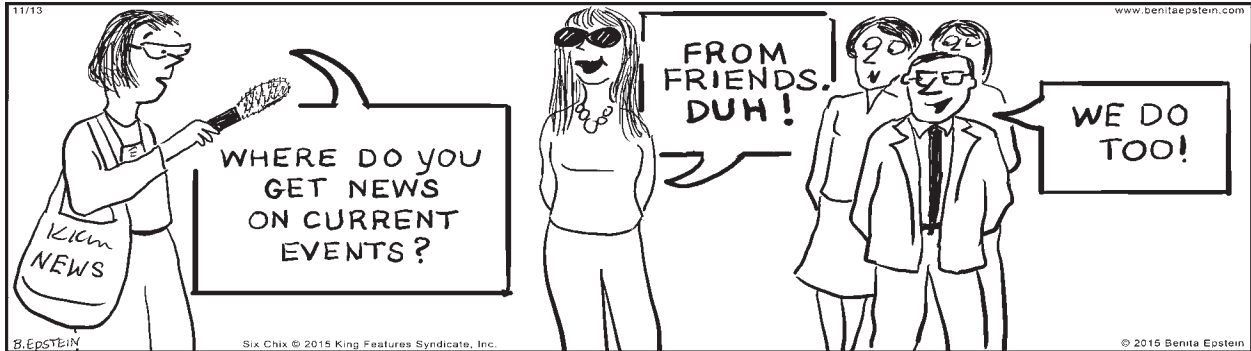
“The beer drinker wants variety. (Beer drinkers) want choice. They want quality. They want authenticity. □



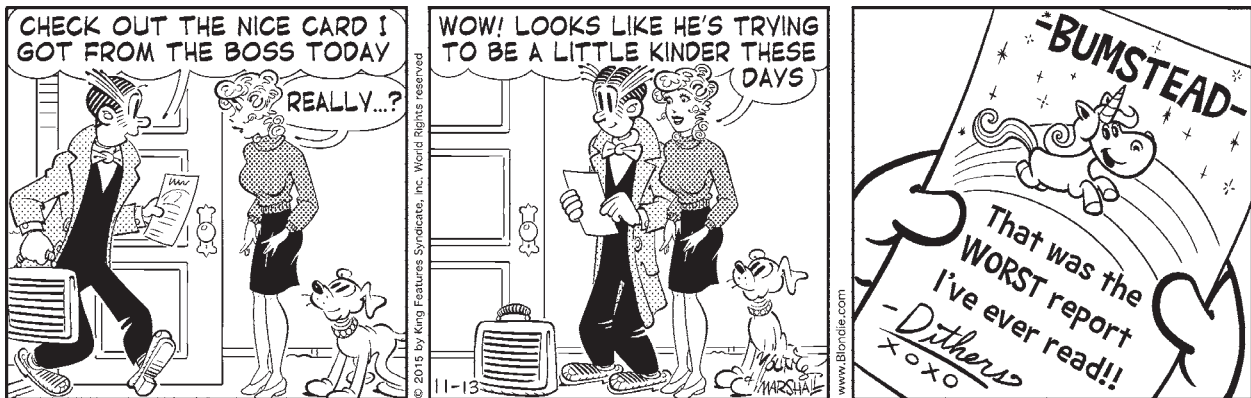
## Mutts



## 6 Chix



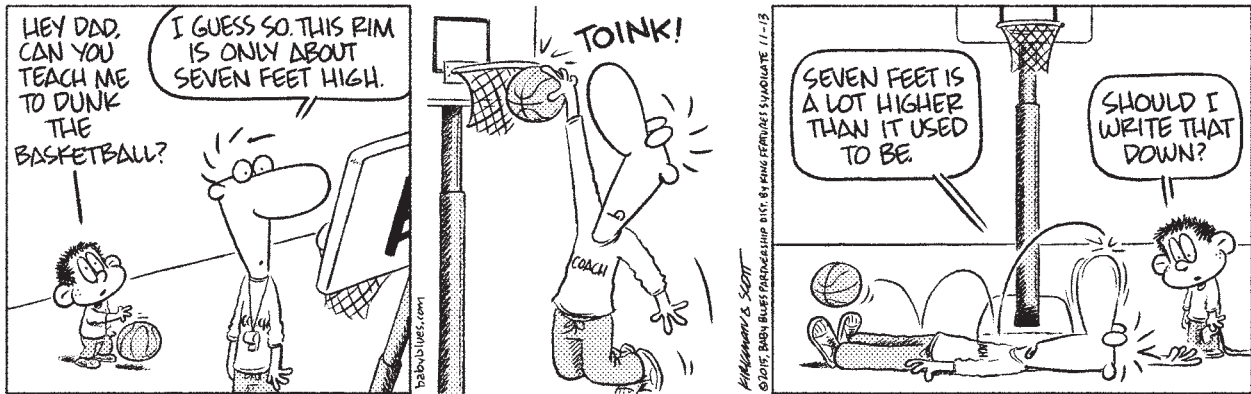
## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

5	6				7			9
	7			4	8		3	1
4	3							
	8						9	
							2	6
1	9		3	6			7	
7			1				4	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/13

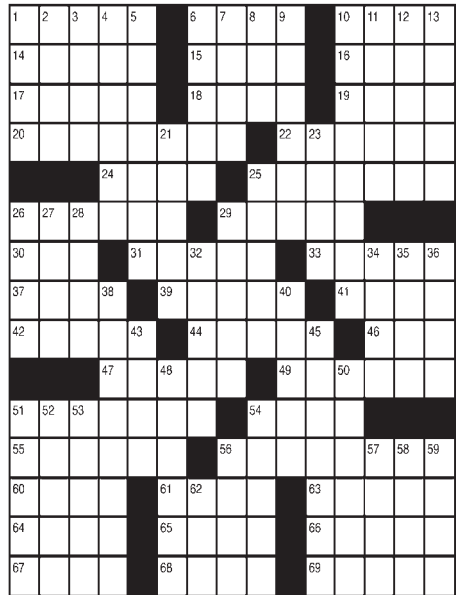
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	5	6	9	3	2	4	7	1
7	9	1	4	5	8	6	3	2
4	3	2	6	7	1	5	8	9
3	6	7	5	2	4	1	9	8
1	8	9	7	6	3	2	5	4
5	2	4	8	1	9	3	6	7
2	7	3	1	8	5	9	4	6
6	4	5	2	9	7	8	1	3
9	1	8	3	4	6	7	2	5

## ACROSS

- Speak without preparation
- Swindle
- Brief haircut
- Wynonna's mother
- Havana's land
- TV's "The Amazing \_"
- Pitfalls
- Curves
- Tell it like \_; speak frankly
- Undressed
- Laundry problems
- Song for two
- Study of the Earth's structure
- One also named in a will
- Ne'er-do-well
- "\_ Maria"
- Stopwatch user
- Sword fights
- Bit of bacteria
- Rarin' to go
- Hammerer's target
- Mistake
- News source, for some
- FBI crime lab evidence
- Peace Prize
- Dusk
- Handbooks
- Celebration
- Bryn Mawr graduate
- Sweet wine
- Athletic shoe brand
- "I Am...I \_"; Neil Diamond song
- Make amends
- Kiln
- Powdered drink
- Transmits
- Nap
- Cooking herb
- Lovers' meeting



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/13/15

## Thursday's Puzzle Solved

CLAD	ADAPT	AWLS
LIKE	DAFOE	ROOT
OMIT	INTER	TOGA
PANACEA	TRAILER	
	IOU	BRADS
SCALD	PRY	LACES
URNS	LOA	CINEMA
AUG	TAXICAB	SOB
VEERED	DON	HATE
ELLEN	REP	SORER
	TOTED	BAN
UMPIRES	PAGODAS	
PEAR	ACNES	RARE
ONCE	CURSE	ENCE
NUKE	HEATS	DESK

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11/13/15

## DOWN

- "Nay" voter

- Mend socks
- Burden
- Block; hinder
- Dog \_; treat for Fido
- Meager
- Brief in replying
- CBS competitor
- Church services
- Practice test
- Numerical comparison
- Cinnamon roll topper
- Cluttered
- Spooky
- Three-\_\_ sloth
- Punctured
- Canary's home
- Above
- Frau's husband
- Allowed by law
- Female horses
- Actor George
- Down the \_; in the future
- Thin strip of wood

- Lincoln Memorial, e.g.
- Heats in the microwave
- Hot \_\_ sundae
- Actress \_\_-Na Wen
- Blair or Danza
- Concludes
- In case
- Battery size





This screen grab taken from the Dubai Police website, shows a photo of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and Ruler of Dubai, with the Burj Khalifa tower behind him, with one question in English and Arabic: "Are you happy in Dubai?" (Dubai Police website via AP.)

## Think you're unhappy in Dubai? The police may call to ask why...

JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — If you say you're unhappy in Dubai, the police may call to ask you why as part of a new survey.

The online poll, unveiled in recent days, comes as Dubai tries to break into the top 10 rankings of world's happiest cities by 2021, an effort in league with other lofty aspirations in this emirate, home to the world's tallest building.

The simple survey has users choose between a frown, a smile and an unimpressed straight line. The police say they will call those who say they are unhappy, which puzzles some observers, including William Davies, a senior lecturer at the University of London who recently published the book "The Happiness Industry: How the Government and Big Business Sold Us Well-Being."

"This looks like to me an attempt to try to slightly frighten people into A) replying to the survey question and B) replying to say they're happy because people really don't want to be rung up by the police with the question: 'Well, what's your problem?'" Davies said. "But I don't know. Maybe there's something sincere about it."

The effort to measure happiness can be seen in government offices across Dubai, one of seven of the United Arab Emirates. Small tablet computers placed next to civil servants allow citizens to provide instant feedback on their experience. Last year, authorities

also began ranking municipal offices with a two-to-seven star system based on their customer service, part of Dubai's "smart government" push.

That happiness effort has included the Dubai police, most well-known abroad for some of the luxury cars employed in its fleet. Twitter messages from the police often include the hashtag "Your Security Our Happiness" in both Arabic and English.

At a recent electronics show, the Dubai police unveiled its happiness survey, saying it began Wednesday. It sent text messages to a number of Dubai residents including a link to a webpage showing a picture of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, with the Burj Khalifa tower behind him. It asked one question in English and Arabic: "Are you happy in Dubai?"

In a statement, police said the survey received more than 200,000 responses in its first day, with 84 percent saying they were happy, 6 percent neutral and 10 percent unhappy. Police did not disclose how many text messages they sent. But that wasn't all. Maj. Gen. Khamis Mattar Al Mazeina, Dubai's police chief, told local media that his officers would randomly call a selection of those unhappy to ask what was upsetting them. "If the matter is under our jurisdiction, we will help them with it, but if it has to do with another government entity we will forward the issue to the concerned department," he said. □

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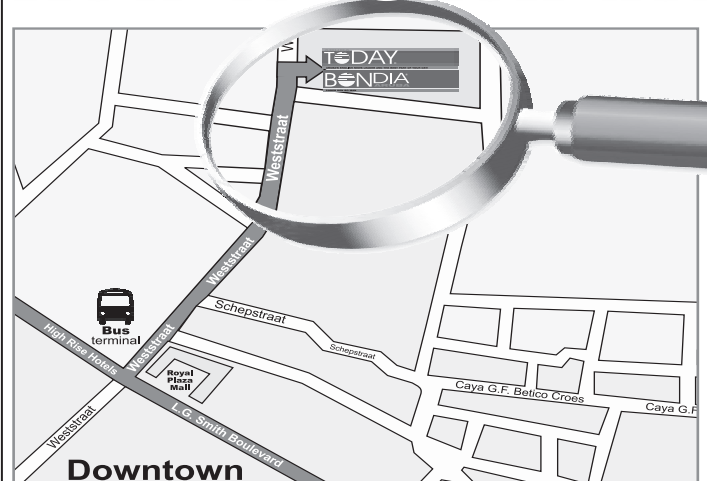
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## Mexico hopes to see 3-4 times more monarch butterflies

**MARK STEVENSON**

**Associated Press**

**PIEDRA HERRADA, Mexico (AP)** — The number of monarch butterflies reaching their wintering grounds in central Mexico this year may be three to four times higher than the previous season, authorities said Thursday.

Speaking during a visit to a monarch reserve with U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Mexican Environment Secretary Rafael Pacchiano said initial reports suggest the butterfly population is rebounding.

"We estimate that the butterfly population that arrives at the reserve is as much as three and could reach four times the surface area it occupied last season," Pacchiano said.

He did not explain how the government made the calculation, but authorities conduct informal tracking of monarch butterflies as they enter Mexico from the United States.

The population of orange-and-black butterflies making the 3,400-mile (5,500-kilometer) migration from the



**A guide holds up a damaged and dying butterfly at the monarch butterfly reserve in Piedra Herrada, Mexico, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015. The number of monarch butterflies reaching their wintering grounds in central Mexico this year may be three or four times higher than the previous year, authorities said Thursday. The population of orange-and-black butterflies, which migrate to Mexico from the U.S. and Canada, has declined in recent years. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)**

United States and Canada declined in recent years before recovering slightly in 2014, when the insects covered about 2.79 acres (1.13 hectares) in the mountains west of Mexico City.

The monarchs cluster so closely in trees that their

numbers are measured by the area they cover. They once blanketed as much as 44 acres (18 hectares).

Pacchiano said the butterfly colonies could cover 3 or 4 hectares (7.8 to 9.9 acres) this year, and officials hope to reach 6 hectares (14.8

acres) in the reserves by 2020.

"The United States is very committed to protecting the monarch butterfly, but we need the help of Mexico and Canada," Jewell said before hiking an hour into the mountains to see

the trees where the monarchs roost.

She said the United States is working to reintroduce milkweed, a plant key to the butterflies' migration, on about 3 million hectares (1,160 square miles) within five years, both by planting and by designating pesticide-free areas.

Milkweed is the plant the butterflies feed and lay their eggs on, but it has been attacked by herbicide use in the United States.

"Our agricultural practices must be adapted. ... We have to look at our use of pesticides," Jewell said. "We have the goal of 225 million monarch butterflies returning right here, to Mexico, every year. We believe we can get there by working together."

Mexico, too, still has problems.

Illegal logging more than tripled in the monarch butterflies' wintering grounds last year, reversing several years of steady improvements.

Pacchiano said the reserve's buffer area lost more than 20 acres (9 hectares) due to illegal logging in one area this year, but the tree cutting was detected and a number of arrests were made.

Loggers cut down 47 acres (19 hectares) of trees in San Felipe de los Alzati in Michoacan state last year, the biggest loss since 2009. Illegal logging had fallen to almost zero in 2012. □

## Ground broken in Chile for Giant Magellan Telescope

**SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)** — A groundbreaking ceremony has been held in Chile for the Giant Magellan Telescope.

Scientists and officials gathered Wednesday on a mountaintop high in the

Chilean Andes cordillera for the ceremony marking the launch of construction on what is expected to be the largest telescope ever built when it is completed in 2021.

The GMT, as it's known for

short, will be in the Atacama Desert. Experts say it will produce images 10 times sharper than those delivered by the Hubble Space Telescope.

It is intended to help answer questions in cosmology, astrophysics and the study of planets outside the solar system.

The biggest, most powerful telescopes on Earth are being built in Chile, turning the Andean nation into a global astronomy hub. □

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# Cirque du Soleil turns its attention to cracking New York

**MARK KENNEDY**  
**AP Drama Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — After years of treating New York somewhat warily, like a dangerous high-wire act, Cirque du Soleil is ready to flip over the Big Apple. The Montreal-based circus company is planning for two traveling shows to land in the city next fall,

good lately in pushing the boundaries of creativity and also of technology." "Paramour" at the Lyric Theatre marks the first time Cirque has gone directly after the Broadway market, with show creators hoping to give the production more story than traditional Cirque offerings. Cirque du Soleil hasn't al-

Award winner currently on-stage in the play "Sylvia," was in the cast of "Banana

Shpeel" and sensed quickly that it wasn't a great match for the city.

"The genre of circus is traditionally not one of storytelling. It's more abstract. □



This image released by The Publicity Office shows a scene from the Cirque du Soleil show, "Kurios." The Montreal-based hyperactive circus company plans for two traveling shows, "Kurios" and "Toruk," to land in New York City next fall, as well as "Paramour" this spring specially designed for a Broadway theater. (Martin Girard/The Publicity Office via AP)

as well as a new one this spring, "Paramour," which Cirque has specifically designed for a Broadway theater.

"For us, New York is an underdeveloped market and it's surprising because it's still the world capital of entertainment," said Daniel Lamarre, president and chief executive officer of Cirque.

"We are a strong player worldwide with a worldwide brand and we have spent a lot of time developing the Las Vegas market and not enough focus on developing the New York market," he said.

Lamarre promised three completely different shows: In addition to "Paramour," there will be the eccentric and dreamy big top show "Kurios" and the new arena show "Toruk," inspired by James Cameron's movie "Avatar," which he described as "a live, multimedia spectacle."

"Our challenge is always to be on the edge and always come with distinctive types of shows that will always surprise our fans," he said. "I think we've been

ways had roaring success in the city. The female-centric "Amaluna" — the Diane Palus-led melding of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" with jaw-dropping circus tricks — was well-attended in 2014 at Citi Field. But "Banana Shpeel" — a disappointingly spotty program of acrobatics, juggling, dance and mostly tiresome slapstick — flopped at the Beacon Theatre in 2010.

Annaleigh Ashford, a Tony



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## Review: 'Love the Coopers' is a moving, starry holiday pic



This photo provided by CBS Films and Lionsgate shows, Diane Keaton, left, as Charlotte, and John Goodman as Sam, in "Love the Coopers," released by CBS Films and Lionsgate. The movie opens in U.S. theaters on Nov. 13, 2015.

(Suzanne Tenner/CBS Films/Lionsgate via AP)

**LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

"Love the Coopers" is pretty formulaic as far as Christmas dramedies go, but there are always going to be those movies that just get to you — despite, perhaps, your best judgment. Modern holiday movies, with their aggressively unhappy families and sanitized Hallmark sentimentality, occupy an interesting space in entertainment. Big, starry ensemble casts assemble to fight and laugh and cry and realize something profound about life, love and the season

of giving with a backdrop of magazine perfect interiors, idyllic snowfall and a soundtrack of perfectly curated carols.

They're not high art and they're not trying to be, either. Their predictability can be comforting and grating at the same time, especially when most of these stories spend so much time indulging in the discontentedness of its well-off characters.

In "Love the Coopers," from director Jessie Nelson ("I Am Sam"), four generations of an upper middle class family go about their

day separately before gathering for their annual Christmas Eve dinner at the home of Sam (John Goodman) and Charlotte (Diane Keaton). Most are dreading it.

Sam and Charlotte are putting on one last show before deciding to announce their separation. Their daughter, Eleanor (Olivia Wilde), is drinking the hours away in the airport with a stranger (Jake Lacy) to minimize her time at home. Their son, Hank (Ed Helms), is trying to hide the fact that he doesn't have a job. □



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